

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-02

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 /072 W

-----104569 081500Z /53

O R 081419Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2688

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 4901

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, ELAB, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - EMPLOYEES

1. TWO STORIES ON NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR IN ALL PAPERS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 8. FIRST DEALS WITH REMARKS BY PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR GABRIEL LEWIS UPON RETURN TO WASHINGTON. AP (GAVSHON) STORY IS FEATURED BY "STAR AND HERALD" AND "ESTRELLA" WHICH HIGHLIGHT PANAMA'S EXPECTATION OF "SPECIFIC RESPONSES" FROM U.S. WHEN NEGOTIATIONS RESUME MONDAY.

2. "CRITICA" STORY IS LESS PROMINENT. NOT ATTRIBUTED TO A WIRE SERVICE, IT INCLUDES A STATEMENT BY LEWIS THAT GN LTC CONTRERAS WILL PARTICIPATE WHEN NEGOTIATIONS RESUME.

3. OTHER JULY 8 TOPIC IS REPORT OF THURSDAY EVENING MEETING BETWEEN GOP NEGOTIATORS AND ADVISERS AND PANAMANIAN-CITIZEN CANAL ZONE UNION LEADERS; ALL PAPERS EXCEPT "STAR AND HERALD" FEATURE PICTURES OF THE GROUP.

4. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO MEETING, GOP NEGOTIATOR EXCOBAR SAID PANAMA WOULD NOT ACCEPT A NEGATIVE U.S.

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RESPONSE TO DISCUSSING MATTERS RELATED TO CANAL ZONE WORKERS; BY SPECIFIC DIRECTION OF GENERAL TORRIJOS, WORKERS WOULD NOT BE LEFT "ADRIFT".

5. ESCOBAR LISTED ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WHEN NEGOTIATIONS RESUME AS: DELIMINATION OF LANDS AND WATERS NECESSARY FOR OPERATION AND DEFENSE OF CANAL; RIGHTS OF

WORKERS; AND ECONOMIC ISSUE. HE SAID A SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR MATTERS WOULD INCLUDE THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH SIDE. ONE OF THOSE FROM U.S. WOULD BE GENERAL DOLVIN. PANAMA WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY DR. RICARDO FABREGA OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, AND TWO OTHERS FROM PANANIAN-CITIZEN UNIONS, WHO MIGHT SELECT THOSE THEY FELT COULD BEST REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS. (ONE PAPER, "MATUTINO", SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE AND DIRECT UNION PARTICIPATION WOULD BE REQUIRED ONLY IF DISCUSSIONS AT PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATING TABLE FAILED TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES TO PANAMA'S SATISFACTION, HOWEVER.)

6. ESCOBAR ALSO SAID RIGHTS OF SOME 1,500 WORKERS IN PRIVATE COMPANIES LOCATED IN CANAL ZONE WOULD BE DISCUSSED. HE STRESSED TORRIJOS' PERSONAL ORDERS THAT WORKERS' INTERESTS BE DEALT WITH, AND SAID UNION PARTICIPATION WAS ALSO PERSONALLY DIRECTED BY TORRIJOS. (FBIS/PANAMA FILING "ESTRELLA" REPORT TEXT.)

7. PAPERS CONTAIN NO OTHER COMMENTARY ON NEGOTIATIONS.  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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